



The Buzz

March, 2016

In this issue of The Buzz:

- Tough Budget Talk
- Rally in Annapolis
- State Testing
- EGATE Award
- Team News
- Upcoming Events
- Neighborhood Programs
- Calendar and more!



Important dates this month:

- 3/1, Fire Drill 2 pm
- 3/2, Grades 5&6 Field Trip
- 3/3, Progress Reports Sent Home
- 3/3, Tutti Gusti Night 3-8 pm
- 3/3, Student Celebration Night 5:30-7:30 pm
- 3/4, Grade 8 Project Fair 8:30 am
- 3/4, Opening Night Hairspray 7 pm
- 3/5, Hairspray 7 pm
- 3/6, Hairspray 2 pm
- 3/8, PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
- 3/9, Annapolis Rally 4:30-9 pm
- 3/10, International Night 5:30-7:30 pm
- 3/11, Grade 6 Field Trip
- 3/11, PTO Movie Night
- 3/13, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/15 & 16, Grades 5 & 8 MSA Science
- 3/16, Parent Support Group English 8 am
- 3/16, School Family Council Meeting 3 pm
- 3/17, Grade 2 Field Trip
- 3/18, No Uniform Day
- 3/18, Parent Support Group Spanish 8 am
- 3/21, Class Picture Day
- 3/22, 23, 24, Grade 4 Field Trip

Continued on Page 15

Matthew Hornbeck, Principal
Arleen Proto, Assistant Principal
John Paz, Assistant Principal

**HHA STAFF AND STUDENTS HAVE FUN AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL 60S BASH
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT!**

TOUGH BUDGET THIS YEAR

City Schools announced a budget that will mean \$275,000 fewer dollars for HHA. Part of the drop in funding is due to lower enrollment in City Schools even though we are bursting at the seams and expect record numbers of HHA students next year. The other factor is Governor Hogan's state budget reduces funding to City Schools by \$25M. The ACLU and the Baltimore Education Coalition are working hard to restore at least some of those cuts. Mr. Hornbeck met with the School Family Council (SFC) Monday, February 29th to discuss ways to mitigate these cuts. We hope to preserve all staff and programming, but it's going to be a year to tighten our belt. Stay tuned.



SAY "No" TO SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS – RALLY FOR HHA IN ANNAPOLIS

Join us on Wednesday, March 9th for a rally in Annapolis. This is an indoor rally that includes transportation and dinner. The bus will leave HHA at 4:30 pm and return at approximately 9 pm.

This is your opportunity to tell legislators how you feel about impending budget cuts to the City Schools' budget. Please email Ms. Swann at geriswann@hotmail.com to reserve a seat on the bus.

STATE TEST NEXT MONTH

The second year of Maryland's new assessment in grades 3-8 called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is scheduled to begin in April. The PARCC will be administered just one time this year. The multiple choice questions ask students to select an answer, and then the next question asks them to select how or why they know their answer to the previous question is correct. Our students are ready. Parents can help by making sure students are relaxed, rested and have a good breakfast on test days. Look for a complete testing schedule in the April newsletter.

To emphasize attendance, effort, and conduct during testing weeks, students will be eligible to earn tickets for special raffles or participation in pizza parties organized by their teachers. Prizes and/or pizza parties vary by grade. Ask your child's homeroom teacher for more information. Staff addresses are located at www.hha47.org. Encourage your child to come to school with a relaxed, positive view of the test and to be on time and try their best.

HHA HONORED AT EGATE AWARDS

HHA shined at the EGATE awards held Wednesday, February 24th! This year the Maryland State Department of Education recognized four schools in Maryland with programs that meet the rigorous standards for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE). Out of 27 applicants across the state, HHA received the award along with three other newly recognized schools. HHA has created and implemented structures that meet the special needs of our gifted and talented students. The important changes to our program include: Updated criteria for identifying students, creation of individualized learning plans, mid-year progress reports and monitoring, and universal screening of all students in grades K-1.

In addition to the award, HHA has also been named as a GAL (Gifted and Advanced Learning) site by City Public Schools. As a result of this honor, a middle school honors program and honors level coursework for qualified students in grades 6, 7 and 8 has been created. Mr. Hornbeck's comments from the award's ceremony are located at the end of the newsletter.



HHA students take part in the EGATE activities

SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY REMINDER

We need 100% participation, so tell your friends and other HHA parents you see before and after school to **COMPLETE THE SURVEY**. If you complete the survey by Thursday, March 3rd, your name will be put in a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card. Two gift cards will be given away. The survey is also available on line at www.hha47.org. Just click the "Parent Survey" button.

**PARENT
SURVEY**
CLICK HERE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR STUDENT CELEBRATION NIGHT

**WHEN: Thursday, March 3rd
5:30-7:30 pm**

Parent/teacher conferences will take place to discuss your child's individual academic success and, if needed, challenges. Our teachers want to meet with every family. Therefore, these conferences are not just to discuss concerns, but to share the great things your child is doing at school. A conference reservation form for this event is available in the main lobby. However, walk-ins are welcome. If your child's teacher is not available at this event, please contact the teacher directly to arrange a conference time.

While you are waiting for your child's conference, an informational fair will take place in the school cafeteria. Staff members will be available to give information on a variety of subjects. If you visit various stations at the fair, you will have a card stamped. Your card will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card. Light refreshments will be available.

UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOL IN CANTON – VERY IMPORTANT

Mr. Hornbeck recently met with the consultant working for the Southeast Community Development Center (SECDC) to discuss HHA's interest in the building at 801 South Highland Avenue, as well as our interest in seeing new schools and additions to existing schools throughout southeast Baltimore City. The SECDC, under Chris Ryer, is organizing a committee to study and discuss school attendance areas/zones, the development of new and existing buildings, and what the community wants in terms of public education. Of particular interest to the SECDC is the acquisition and development as a school of three parcels of land currently utilized as garages on Fayette Street. HHA's operator and families are not interested in reducing our attendance zone. We would definitely consider expanding our zone if HHA added an additional campus at the site of the former Friendship/Canton Middle building. Let your voice be known in this process.

MARCH 13TH MAYORAL CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY – YOU SHOULD COME!

Join us Sunday, March 13th from 4-6 pm at Coppin State University for the BUILD Mayoral Candidate Accountability Assembly. All the top candidates running for Mayor of Baltimore will be present to listen and respond to the BUILD One Baltimore campaign. BUILD One Baltimore seeks to get candidates to commit to providing 15,000 more jobs for Baltimoreans (including 1,000 jobs for youth), fully funding recreation centers, providing more police foot patrols in neighborhoods, training police, and doubling the number of community schools. Doors open at 3:30 pm at the James Weldon Johnson Auditorium, please enter by Gwynns Falls Pkwy entrance. RSVP to libbylongino@gmail.com. Wear your HHA gear and come out to support a better future for Baltimore! For more information, see: <http://www.buildiaf.org/current-campaigns/build-one-baltimore-campaign/>.

SUPPORT YOUR CITY: SIGN THE BUILD ONE BALTIMORE POSTCARD!

We want to present the candidates at the mayoral candidate assembly at Coppin with thousands of postcards demanding more real jobs, a better, more visible police force, recreation centers for kids and more community schools. Please complete the card when your child brings it home and return it the next day. You may also go online and complete it at: <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-3652999171048142848>.

SAVE THE DATE FOR INTERNATIONAL NIGHT AT HHA

**Thursday, March 10th 2016
5:30-7:30pm**

PERFORMANCES by HHA families, local Urban Dance Troupe, our own theatre students and professional flamenco dancer, Alexa Miton.

CRAFTS and FOOD provided by our own Culinary Arts Club, Creative Alliance, HHA families and staff. This event is in collaboration with The Creative Alliance.



The annual Career Fair for grade 5-8 students will take place Friday, April 29th from 8:30-10:30 am. If you or anyone you know is interested in sharing the background of their career with our students, please contact Mrs. Seymour at 410-396-9146 or nduprey@bcps.k12.md.us.



B3
Saturday, April 9, 2016
6pm - 11pm

B3 is HHA's annual fundraiser sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to raise money for our kids!

Enjoy a fun filled night of bingo games and win cash prizes! Have fun bidding on fantastic items in the Silent Auction featuring in kind donations from many local businesses, restaurants and other organizations. Dine on delicious bites donated by local community restaurants while listening to great music from DJ Mr. Swann!

- B3 is an over-21 event and a terrific night out!
- B3 tickets are \$25 and include a bingo card and food.
- Drinks and extra bingo cards will be available to purchase.

Silent Auction Items Include:

- 2 weeks of summer camp at Camp Twin Creeks (\$2750 value) camptwincreeks.com
- 1 week of Coppermine Sports Camp (\$350 value)
- 1 week of Coppermine Copperkids Camp (\$350 value)
- Port Discovery Family Membership (\$109 value)
- Collection of Principal Hornbeck's Favorite Books (priceless!)
- Family Dog Walk in Patterson Park with Principal Hornbeck with Blue Moon cinnamon buns, coffee and juice! (priceless!)
- First Row VIP Seats for 2016-2017 school year musical (priceless!)
- Pizza with Paz for winner and 2 friends (priceless!)
- Ice Cream party for winner and 4 friends with 3rd grade teachers (priceless!)
- Plus many gift cards to area shops and restaurants among other amazing items.

Look for a ticket purchase form at the end of the newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

PREK

Students celebrated the 100th day of school, and continued learning about animals and the winter season. In math, they also worked on counting and recognizing numbers from 0-10. Please practice these math skills at home with your child. Next units of study will be measurement and animal habitats. The weather is still cold! Please make sure your child wears a coat to school every day. Help them learn to button and zip the coat. Also, remember to put children to bed at an early and regular time. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions!

KINDERGARTEN

Students celebrated the 100th day of school by making over 300 lunches to be used at Our Daily Bread. This is an activity that students take part in each year. Everyone is so proud of the students and enjoyed seeing their excitement as they decorated lunch bags and made lunches for those less fortunate. The service project created great conversations about helping others in the community.

Students will continue to study the signs of winter and will soon start fairy tale stories and stories about plants. In math, help your child practice their math skills at home with counting, adding, and subtracting along with reading every night. Also, please have your child read the day's story three times and sign their charts. Students are also practicing tying shoes, zipping and buttoning coats, and trying hard not to lose mittens. Continue to encourage your child to dress themselves and tie their own shoes. In the near future, kindergarten students will begin a problem solving club. They will be rewarded for taking initiative and solving their own problems without teacher intervention. Encourage your child to advocate for themselves by identifying the problem and either asking for help or trying to figure out a solution on their own. As a reminder, permission slips for Peter and the Wolf are due March 11th at noon. Please talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions. Also, please do your best to keep your child coming to school and on time. The teachers will support your child as much as they can at school, and as always, thank you for your help and support!



Kindergarten students celebrate the 100th day of school with 100 building blocks

GRADE 1

Students celebrated the 100th day of school with fun activities including creating a picture with 100 pieces, making cereal necklaces that included 100 pieces divided into groups of 10 and having two "Zero the Hero's"! Students also received their animal habitats project, which is a 2-step project with the first part due March 14th. The second part of the project will be due April 22nd. This project is a culminating activity for the animal habitat unit that students finished in Core Knowledge. The next unit of study in Core Knowledge will be Astronomy. Finally, students will take a field trip in April to see a production of *Seussical the Musical*. Look for information to be sent home soon.

GRADE 2

Students had their winter Audubon sessions and learned how to use binoculars and identify birds. They will be ready to go bird watching in Patterson Park during their spring session. They are now getting ready to go to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on March 17th. The money for this trip is due by March 10th and should be paid in cash. There is room for five chaperons per homeroom due to the limited space on the bus. It is a first come first serve for chaperons. If you are not chosen as a chaperon, you are welcome to follow the bus.

The 1st and 2nd grade teachers remind you to check your child's folder every night and to check their reading homework. Be sure they are completing their homework and reading each night. Have a safe and relaxing spring break.



*2nd grade students
enjoy a visit from
Audubon*



GRADE 3

Reading: The reading groups will begin to read a series of stories about scuba diving in the Atlantic Ocean. They will learn about coral reefs, unusual sea animals and being brave in dangerous situations. They will also finish reading about the organs and other major systems in the human body. All 3rd grade students will continue to work on reading fluency. Please read with your child every day even on the weekends.

Language: The language groups are learning a variety of information. They have begun to learn about a brand new part of speech: adjectives. In addition, they are learning to read and edit a passage for clarity. During this task, students are expected to read a passage, find any unclear pronouns and replace those pronouns with specific names. They are also learning how to use the reference tools (table of contents and index) in their reading textbook. In addition, they continue to practice the use of commas when applied to dates and addresses. One group will begin the study of poetry. During this unit, students will practice their rhyming abilities. In addition, they learn how to form stanzas and how to incorporate stylistic writing elements into their poems. Please check your child's agenda each night so that you know when your child will be taking a test so you can monitor your child's studying habits in preparation for the test.

Math: Students have finished Unit 5, Length and have spent some time on a mid-year review. They will now move on to Unit 6, Mass and Weight. They have also been hard at work on their 3rd quarter portfolio projects. They are choosing to create a song, story, poem, or comic strip about multiplication and division. Their work will include at least five problems and answers. Students are following the stages of the writing process to complete the drafts in school, and they will create their final copy for homework. Information about this project will be sent home soon. As always, please continue to practice multiplication and division facts at home!

Science: Students in all groups have almost completed the water and climate unit. The last assessment of this unit will consist of an in-class portfolio project. Students will write a creative piece that requires them to detail the steps of the water cycle through the eyes of a water droplet. Next, students will move onto the motion and matter unit. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about the science fair. Although the actual science fair board is not due until after spring break, it is always a smart idea to get started as soon as possible.

GRADE 4

Reading: Groups are reading *Beauty and the Beast* and *Sara Crewe*. Students should be reading nightly. Grade reports are sent home on Fridays. Please review, sign and return the report to school. Weekly homework sheets are being sent home on Monday and are due back on Fridays.

Language: Groups are learning the very challenging skill of structuring sentences to build arguments. Some students are working in Reasoning and Writing Level D and others are writing paragraphs that infer about events that must have happened. All groups continue to rise up to the rigorous writing each week.

Math: Groups are learning about decimals, and about tenths, hundredths, thousandths, how decimals relate to fractions, and how we apply decimals to money. They are also reviewing long division, bar models and operations on fractions. Some math students have finished the second unit on fractions and have moved on to measures, where they are learning all about the various units of measurement. They will also be converting, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing different measurements. All students should continue practicing their multiplication and division facts at home so they can excel in their classwork.

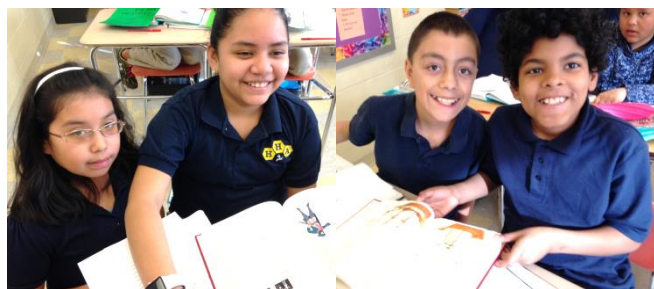
Social Studies: Class scientists are learning to be good thinkers and observers. Students finished the fossil's unit strong! The students were able to spend the day with a MICA graduate student, Jennifer Burt, to learn about community arts and print design. It was a wonderful experience, and the students made excellent fossil prints. They are now into the unit on Earth and Its Resources. They are learning about earth's different landforms and how they are shaped by weathering and erosion.



Ms. Trainer's scientists watch Ms. Burt demonstrate the fossil print process

GRADE 5

Reading: The groups have completed *The Cruise of the Dazzler* by Jack London, and are currently reading an autobiography about Harriet Tubman. Students are researching the Civil War using computers, maps and texts. Some of the students have completed *Holes* by Loius Sachar, and are completing their final essays and research on desert animals. Their next novel will be *Kira Kira*. Remember that students have homework each Monday through Thursday and novel choice on Fridays. Coach class in on Tuesdays from 2:45 to 3:30 pm in room 302.



Ms. Lastner's students enjoy reading

Language: Students continue to refine their writing skills.

Math: Students are working on decimals. They are adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimal numbers, and have started new portfolio project. Students will apply what they have learned in class to the real world situation of going to the grocery store. They are also learning their multiplication and division facts using Rocket Math.

Science: Students are transitioning out of learning about the earth and the sun and are rocketing into living systems. As a conclusion to the earth and sun unit, students are creating meteorology reports.

GRADE 6

Humanities: Students are currently reading *Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy* by Albert Marrin. As they read, students are examining how individuals overcome challenges with a focus on the perspective of early 20th century immigrant workers. On Friday, March 11th, the students will travel to New York City to visit the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Chinatown and Little Italy.

Math: Students will begin the geometry unit and will learn how to construct circles as well as create a geometry handbook for circles, triangles and quadrilaterals.

Science: Students just finished exploring the geologic timeline and Earth's history. Students are now beginning a unit on weather and climate. Quiz yourself and see if you can answer the following questions and then quiz your child:

- What was the first organism on Earth and in which era did this occur?
- What are mega-mammals and in which era did they exist?
- When was the biggest mass extinction in Earth's history?

6TH GRADE SNACK SALE

The 6th grade students wanted to thank the parents, teachers, students and the Canton community for donating baked goods. The two bake sales were a success with \$1,737 being raised to help fund the New York field trip. Special thanks to the 600 block of South Linwood Avenue for donating \$65. Thank you for your help and support. It is greatly appreciated.

GRADE 7

Language Arts: Students have finished the study of *Inside Out* and *Back Again*, and looked at the refugee experience after the character Ha left Vietnam and resettled in America. In addition, students discussed the challenges of adapting to a new culture and place-- particularly, the challenges of learning a new language and culture. For their final project, students are going to look at another story about a refugee and create a poem chronicling the refugee's experience.

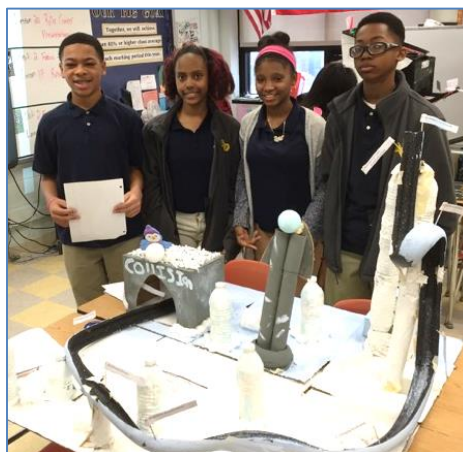
Math: Students will finish Domain 4 Geometry and start Domain 5 Statistics and Probability. Students will work on sampling and using Mean and Mean Absolute Deviation.

Science: Students will complete the study of the kingdom animalia. They have spent the last month exploring characteristics that define invertebrate and vertebrate species, and will connect what they have learned about animals to the next unit on the human body. The study of human body systems will take place until the 4th quarter.

GRADE 8

Language Arts: Students are very excited that they have finished their projects for the project fair. The projects will be judged Friday, March 4th. Each child is presenting their influential person, time period or topic and sharing their research with the judges. After the project fair, students will begin reading *My Brother Sam is Dead* which aligns with the Revolutionary War unit. Students will also begin to prepare for the PARCC test.

Math: Students started a unit on functions. They started with defining functions and learning all the different ways functions can be represented. After learning the representations, students learned how to evaluate functions when given different domains. They also learned how to write the equation of linear functions when given in a different representation. At the end of the month, students were introduced to non-linear functions. In March, students will learn to average rate of change and will use functions to model real life scenarios.



8th grade students show off their roller coaster projects

Science: Students have started the next unit on Energy. They will learn how the universe is comprised of energy that it is constantly being transformed from one form to another. This unit will include an inquiry-based project on thermal conductors and insulators, as well as a persuasive writing project about renewable and non-renewable energy resources. This month students will also prepare for the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) in science that will be administered over two days in mid-March.

Leaders Go Places:

Middle school students recently attended LGP Homeroom Advisory, a bi-quarterly opportunity for students to calculate their GPA and receive an update on their leadership level status. Students who submit at least one service learning hour to Mrs. Seymour by Friday, March 11th will be eligible for a special "citizenship" recognition pin.

RESOURCE NEWS

ART

All students had the opportunity to complete Square one Art this past month. Look for the order form to be coming home in your child's folder. Please complete the form and return it to school before the deadline.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in grades PreK – K will conclude large group games and will begin 50 yard dash skills. Students in grades 1, 2 and 3 will conclude station activities and begin 50 yard dash skills. Students in grades 4 and 5 will conclude volleyball activities using the beach ball and will begin 50 yard dash skills. Students in grades 6 and 7 will conclude volleyball and begin the dodge ball unit. Students in grade 8 will be tested on the five elements of fitness and will also begin the dodge ball unit. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will also be tested on the volleyball unit.

CORE KNOWLEDGE EXTENSION

Prek and K are singing songs, doing movements with songs, listening to books and coloring pictures related to the songs. Students in grades 3 and 4 are learning about the classification of animals, and students in grade 5 are learning about explorers and the thirteen colonies. Students in grade 7 are working on Duolingo Spanish or French, and students in grades 6 and 8 are continuing to write a variety of articles in journalism.

FOOD FOR LIFE

Students in Food for Life have been busy reading nutrition labels and learning how fats affect the heart and circulatory system. Students in grade 1 and 2 are beginning a unit on vitamins, and students in grades 3 and 4 will do a unit on botany and explore grains, fruits, legumes and vegetables. Students in grades 5-8 are learning about seasonings, before beginning their cooking units. Students in grades 5 and 6 will learn about various cooking methods like sautéing and roasting, and students in grades 7 and 8 will make foods from around the world.

MUSIC LESSONS

Orchestra students are diligently working on concert music for the spring community arts night. Beginners have been working with the G string and scale extensively. Advanced students are also working with the G string as well as longer pieces of music.

Band students have also begun working on concert music. They are preparing a longer selection as well as a few shorter ones. They are also starting to play duets and solo pieces as well.

All students are continuing to expand their musical vocabulary as well as strengthen their note and rhythm reading skill.

HEALTH

PreK and K students are learning their emergency phone numbers by making "High Five" posters to help them with memorization. Students in grades 1 and 2 summed up their conflict resolution unit by creating a "Don't be an Angry Bird" book, and students in grades 3 and 4 are learning about spiritual wellness through yoga. Students in grade 5 and 6 students have begun discussing bullying, and students in grade 7 and 8 have completed their introduction lesson to the family life unit.

DRAMA

Ms. Durkin is having a lot of fun getting to know her new PreK and K students. Students have learned what it means to be an actor, practiced observation skills, and learned about personal space. All students in grades 1 - 8 are engaged in a unit on devising and performing original theatrical works.

On Thursday, February 18th, four HHA students participated in the citywide student Shakespeare Festival held at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. They were joined by students from Baltimore City College, Roland Park and Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts. Jorge Sanchez-Alvarez (Benedick) and Jordan Turowski (Beatrice), 7th grade students, presented a dramatic scene from *Much Ado About Nothing*. Madison Bunce (Nurse) and Shayla Chapple-Bell (Juliet), 8th grade students, presented a comedic scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. The students did a fantastic job performing on a professional stage and received feedback from professional actors of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. We look forward to taking more students to this wonderful event next year!

NATURE EXPLORATION

Because of all the weather events, classes have only met one to two times this semester. However, students have begun to explore the different components of ecosystems and are beginning to look a bit more in depth into the relationships between the biotic and abiotic factors. In the lower elementary classes, students will explore how animal adaptations help them to survive in the winter. In the upper middle school classes, students have been exploring chemical change and the pH of different solutions. The goal is for students to make the connection between the pollutants that we put into our atmosphere and the consequences of acid rain and increased acidity in our oceans and on the wildlife living in the oceans.

Even though winter is still here, classes will go outside to experience nature first hand, so please send your student to school with appropriate outer gear!



Students in Ms. Garry's class sort biotic and abiotic factors



Students in Ms. Kosmer's class investigates the pH of different solutions using a red cabbage indicator



HHA students enjoy an assembly by Hot Horns, a brass band. Thank you to the Johns Hopkins Encore volunteer group at HHA who received grant money from Young Audiences of Maryland to bring this show to our school.



HHA students take part in the Shakespeare Festival

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR
PRINCIPAL'S LIST AND HONOR ROLL AND TO ALL THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO MADE A LEVEL IN LEADERS GO PLACES!
LOOK FOR A LIST OF STUDENTS AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

LIBRARY

Morning in the Library - Come visit!

Parents remember that students are welcome to enjoy the HHA library every morning from 7:45-8:05 am. Parents with younger siblings are also welcome to come check out books, read or just chat with friends. Check out some of the new books in the library.

Have your child read and earn some great prizes!

Grades K-5 - Stop in to any Enoch Pratt public library and sign up for the *Read to Reef Reading* contest. Students can earn four free tickets to the National Aquarium.

Grades 1-6 - Register at the school library for the Six Flags reading contest. Read and earn a free ticket to Six Flags to enjoy this summer.

Lower Elementary:

Great Horned Owls in the North American Animals Series

The HHA library has many new books perfect for young ones to learn about animals that they love. Beautiful pictures and beginner reader text make these perfect for young readers!

Upper Elementary:

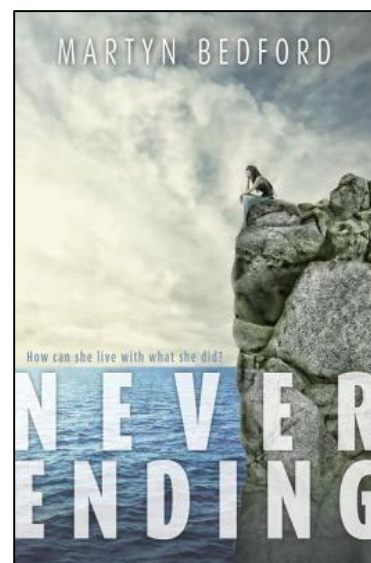
Scream Street Skull of the Skeleton by Tommy Donbavand

This series continues with plenty of gross, scary and funny details that kids love!

Middle School:

Never Ending by Martyn Bedford

Middle school students will enjoy this searching for identity mystery. Tears, laughs and questions are sure to be part of this read.



ESOL

PreK students have been learning all about animals, their homes, their needs, and what makes them special. Kindergarten students just started a unit about community places and community helpers. They will learn all about the places and people in our communities and neighborhoods. Students in 1st grade are learning about different types of homes, needs and wants. They will use question words and thinking about their dream homes. Students in 2nd grade are learning about the water cycle and continuing to practice writing. Students in the 3rd grade are studying the moon and different phases. Students in grades 4 and 5 are working on studying the change of seasons, and students in the 7th grade are writing poems. The WIDA testing is finished and the results will be available in mid-May. Thank you for your support.

CLUB/ACTIVITIES NEWS

Please note, students will not be permitted to join clubs that meet on the same day.

HORNETS BASKETBALL

The HHA Hornets basketball team is now in the finals! The team will play an away game at the Green Street Academy on Wednesday, March 2nd. If the team wins, they will immediately play Crossroads at the same gym. If the team wins these two games, they will play other games during the week. If they continue to win, they will play in the championship game taking place on Saturday, March 5th. Stay tune for updates.

SOCCER AT HHA

The girls' soccer team will become **CO-ED** this spring. Coach Bollard and Coach Douglas will be joined by Coach Donovan to create a co-ed team. There will more games and more skilled instruction. The team will work with Soccer Without Borders and will start in late March. Look for sign up information to be available shortly.

CULINARY ARTS CLUB

Students in Culinary Arts Club are getting ready for International Night on Thursday, March 10th. They have been learning how to cook foods from around the world, which they will serve at International Night. Several mothers of students at school have been guest teachers in the club, teaching the young chefs how to prepare foods from their native lands. A huge thank you to Yulia England, Yesenia Mejias, Alexandra Gonzales and Rose Cole! Club members learned how to make a fried cabbage dish from Russia, Tamales from Mexico, and Meat Pie from Senegal. In addition to these delicious appetizers, International Night will feature a professional Flamenco dancer, one of our students performing an Irish dance, a kids urban dance troupe from the Creative Alliance, Ms. Durkin's students performing a bilingual skit, African storytelling, a piñata making table from the Creative Alliance and more! To RSVP for the event, please email Ms. Demas at Ademas@bcps.k12.md.us.



Culinary Arts' students prepare for International Night with help from an HHA parent



1st grade students experimenting with candy canes in STEM



Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors have fun together at an ice skating party

**PROGRESS REPORTS ARE SENT HOME
THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD**

LOST & FOUND

Please make sure all of your child's belongings are marked with his/her name.

All lost and found items are held for one week only.

Items marked with the student's name will be returned to the student. Please come into school as soon as possible to check for any lost items.

Put Your Name On It!

FAMILY INFORMATION

The Countdown Continues

- 61% of the school year is complete
- 109 of our 180 student days is completed
- There are 33 school days left until our 3rd – 8th grade students take the PARCC test in reading and math beginning April 20th. Mark your calendars.

What Does the PARCC Look Like for Your Child?

Spend some time learning what is expected of your child by the Maryland State Department of Education at <http://www.parcconline.org/computer-based-samples>. You can go see sample PARCC test items in reading and math and much more.



- **MSA Science Assessment** for grades 5 and 8; March 15 and 16, 2016
- **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career** for grades 3 to 8 - April 20 – June 6, 2016
- **Report Cards** – 4/8 (3rd Quarter), Last Day of School (4th Quarter)
- **LAST DAY** – TBA

Please put these dates on your calendar and be sure NOT to plan activities outside of school on test days!
Remember, scores on the tests help decide whether students move on to the next grade.



Sign Up for
our Email List

Go to
www.hha47.org

Go to Quick Links
on the Opening
Page

Register to
Receive School
Information by
Email

PARENTS MATTER!

FREE HEALTH EDUCATION COURSE FOR PARENTS IN SPANISH

(Coming soon to HHA in English!)



Thanks to the Baltimore City Health Department, our parents have been benefitting from an informational workshop on health education. Thank you to our parents and instructor, Gina Baez!



MARCH PARENT WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 23rd at 8:15 am in the library

Join us for this very special talk with Ms. Demas, Food for Life teacher. Ms. Demas will discuss the vitamins and minerals that are in the food we prepare for our children. Don't miss it! It will be a very educational workshop. Spanish interpretation by headset and coffee and treats will be served.

March Parent Support Groups

Wednesday, March 16rd at 8:15 am, English speaking group

***Friday, March 18th at 8:15 am, Spanish speaking group**

Parents have given great feedback about the support they are receiving from our facilitator, Judith Golding, and from other parents. Don't miss it!

BUSY BEES SUMMER CAMP

The Busy Bees Summer Camp begins Monday, June 27th and ends Friday, July 29th. This five-week program will be located at HHA. Pick up and application in the main office.

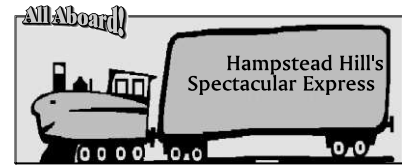
**CLASS PICTURES
MONDAY, MARCH 21ST**

THE SPECTACULAR EXPRESS IS ROLLING ALONG

The Spectacular Express program at HHA is used to recognize students in grades 1-5 for doing a spectacular act. This may be a random act of kindness, outstanding academic behavior, being honest and much more. Students who received a train car for the month of February are:

Adams, Brandon
Baker, Gabe
Gracyalny, Isabella
Hall, Morgan
Hill, Makai
Puertas, Adriano

Purkey, Cassie
Sanchez, Deysi
Torres-Ramirez, Randy
Von Wachter, Vincent



PTO NEWS

B3 planning is in full swing. Book your sitter and buy your tickets for a fun night supporting our school. We are still seeking in-kind donations for the silent auction and food. We also need volunteers for the event, and there is also a need for items for the white elephant table. If you can help in any way, contact the PTO at hhapto@gmail.com. It would be greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to the B3 Queen Bee (\$1000) sponsors: The Gochar Group with Remax Preferred, Fell's Point Resident's Association, and V-NO Wine Bar and Shop, and thank you to the Honey Bee (\$500) Sponsor the Law Office of Sean Bittinger, LLC.

Important PTO Notices

- ✓ Tutti Gusti Night Thursday, March 3rd - 10% of food and drink purchase will be donated to the PTO
- ✓ PTO meeting Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 pm
- ✓ Friday, March 11th, PTO Movie Night
- ✓ Email Tracy Hall at Tracy.hall@gmail.com to help with the Child's Tea and the Daddy Daughter's Dance

ATTENTION PARENTS – AVAILABLE PTO POSITIONS

We are seeking nominations for the PTO Board for the 2016-2017 school year. All board positions serve 2 year terms. Please let us know if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to serve as:

Vice President - The Vice President shall assist the President and carry out the President's duties in his/her absence or inability to serve, and will submit the monthly school newsletter HHA/PTO update.

Secretary - The Secretary shall keep all records of the organization, take and record minutes, handle correspondence, and send notices of meetings to the membership. The secretary also brings all necessary documentation to the PTO meetings.

At Large Board Members - The At Large Board Members shall foster and promote the mission and purpose of the HHA/PTO in the community and local area at large. (2 positions)

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION NEWS

It is March Madness for Box Tops! Help your class win a cupcake party by collecting as many Box Tops as possible during the month of March. Complete the March Madness collection sheets or turn in baggies filled with Box Tops to your teacher by Monday, April 4th.

How PTO money is spent

- The PTO donated \$600. per class for field trips which included:
 - 2nd grade to Franklin Institute
 - 3rd grade (Science Center)
 - 4th grade to Annapolis
 - 6th grade to New York City
- PTO funded Lego Club \$47.16
- PTO contributed \$450. for International night

- B3 lantern decorations \$50.00
- PTO paid for good attendance pizza parties in February for 1st grade (best attendance in December) and for kindergarten for best attendance in January.

The current PTO balance is \$9586.64.

IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE NOTIFY THE MAIN OFFICE STAFF!

SUPPORT BCP & HHA STUDENTS

Many parents have been asked to give donations at their place of employment. Workplace charity campaigns like UWCM, CFC, MCCC and CCC are all ways to support your favorite charity. Each employer has forms you can complete to make a bi-weekly or a one-time pre-tax contribution. If you would like to support our students and the extensive teacher training and coaching the HHA staff receives, please consider selecting Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP), our charter school charter operator, as the organization to support when selecting your favorite charity. Below are the codes to use when making your selection. Please call Tobi Morris at 410-675-7000, x21, if you have specific questions on how to get involved. Thank you in advance for supporting students' success.

United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) – 9819

Maryland Combined Charity Campaign (MCC) – 9819

Combined Charity Combined – City Employees (CCC) 9819

Combined Federal Campaign – Federal Employees – anywhere in the US (CFC)- 26288

Also, if you shop at Amazon, link us to the Amazon Smile account at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1961406>, and BCP will receive .5% from all eligible purchases.



HEALTHY TIPS FROM THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE

National School Breakfast Week is March 7-11. Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day? Research shows that students who eat breakfast are able to focus in the classroom and perform better on tests. What does your child like to eat for breakfast? Check out the first floor bulletin board to see what kids around the world eat for breakfast. Everyone knows mornings are hectic, and it can be hard to fit breakfast in, but your child can have free breakfast every day at school, starting at 7:40 am.

Blueberry Oatmeal Muffins

These Blueberry Oatmeal Muffins are the perfect thing for the kids! Tossing frozen blueberries with flour before adding them to the batter keeps them from turning the batter purple while they bake. If you use fresh blueberries, skip that step.

Yield: 16 adult servings (serving size: 1 muffin)

Ingredients

- 1 2/3 cups quick-cooking oats
- 3 ounces all-purpose flour (about 2/3 cup)
- 2.33 ounces whole-wheat flour (about 1/2 cup)
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups low-fat buttermilk
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups frozen blueberries
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- Cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Place oats in a food processor; pulse 5 to 6 times or until oats resemble coarse meal. Place in a large bowl.
3. Weigh or lightly spoon flours into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Add flours and next 5 ingredients to oats; stir well. Make a well in center of mixture.
4. Combine buttermilk and next 3 ingredients. Add to flour mixture; stir just until moist.
5. Toss berries with 2 tablespoons flour, and gently fold into batter. Spoon batter into 16 muffin cups coated with cooking spray; sprinkle 2 tablespoons granulated sugar evenly over batter. Bake at 400° for 20 minutes or until muffins spring back when touched lightly in center. Remove from pans immediately; place on a wire rack.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving
Calories 190
Fat 5 g
Satfat 0.6 g
Monofat 2.4 g
Polyfat 1.2 g
Protein 4.2 g
Carbohydrate 33.3 g
Fiber 2.4 g
Cholesterol 23 mg
Iron 1.6 mg
Sodium 248 mg
Calcium 74 mg



THE ATTENDANCE RACE CONTINUES

ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY AND THE YEARLY AVERAGE

HHA is serious about attendance. Our talented staff cannot teach unless students attend school. There is a district-wide focus on student attendance. Again this year, there will be mandatory hearings at school headquarters for the parents of students with poor attendance. Each month the newsletter will include this chart so students and parents can review attendance averages.

Congratulations to the 3rd Team for having the highest attendance average for February.
The students in this grade level will have a PTO sponsored pizza party.

Grade	February Attendance %
HHA average	95.25%
Grade 3	97.45%
Grade 5	96.27%
Grade 2	96.05%
Grade 8	96.03%
Grade 7	95.75%
PreK	95.61%
Grade 6	95.57%
Grade 4	94.66%
Kindergarten	93.51%
Grade 1	92.00%

Grade	Year Attendance %
HHA average	96.39%
Grade 3	96.96%
Grade 7	96.74%
Grade 2	96.65%
Grade 5	96.61%
Grade 1	96.17%
Kindergarten	96.17%
Grade 8	96.04%
PreK	95.78%
Grade 6	95.71%
Grade 4	95.70%

THE QUICK BUZZ

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE EACH TIME YOU VOLUNTEER AT HHA.

Newsletter Submissions - If you would like to contribute information to the newsletter that you feel would be helpful to other parents, please submit your article to geriswann@hotmail.com or see Ms. Swann.

Chat With Matt – TBA

School Family Council Meeting – Wednesday, March 16th at 3 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend.

No Uniform Day – Friday, March 18th, students who did not receive detention or an office referral for the current month can attend school on this day out of uniform. Students must dress according to the City Schools' dress code policy.

Uniform Items - If your child borrowed a uniform item from school due to an accident or otherwise, please send it back as soon as possible. We need those items to be available for other students that may need a change of clothes. We also are accepting gently worn uniforms.

Translator or Assistive Devices – If you are in need of this assistance, please call the main office.



Staff and students would like to say thank you to: the members of the PTO: Kelly Navas-Migueloa, Michelle Ziolkowski, Karen Tong, Alison Krysiak, Bev Brooks and Valerie Thanner. Thank you also to Adrienne Ekas-Mueting, Ruth Pruitt, Laverne Gilmore, Aimee Schutz, Allison Townshend, Julie Houpp, Sharon Tserkis, Nancy Pate, Angela Kozlowski, Blake Maciel, Rosemary Chang, Myra Collins, Nancy Pate, Members of the Encore Group from Johns Hopkins University, Johnnie Glancey and Nehemiah Cole for helping in various areas throughout the building. Also, a very special thank you to the parents who donated gently used uniforms and helped on field trips.

FAMILY FUN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Check the end of the newsletter for flyers announcing additional neighborhood activities.



Green Leaders took action at HHA to inspire fellow students. During a presentation, they encouraged their classmates to sign up for Audubon's Habitat Team and to sign a petition to urge decision makers to reduce carbon emissions. Almost 200 middle school students raised their voices for a healthy future!

Important dates this month:

- 3/23, Parent Workshop 8 am
 - 3/23, K Field Trip
 - 3/23, Wellness Committee 3 pm
 - 3/23, College Financial Workshop 5:30 pm
- 3/25-4/3 School Closed Spring Break
4/4 School Reopens



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING! Hampstead Hill Academy Feedback Form

School Year 2015-2016

Name and contact information if you want a response to your submission: _____

I have a _____ question _____ comment _____ concern _____ suggestion.

Please return this form to Ms. Swann.